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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Political life is returning to normal in Czechoslovakia.

A controversy is growing in Prague over the abolition just before the Cierna talks of the party post of Lt. Gen. Vaclav Prchlik. Reportedly against the wishes of the party leadership, three local party organizations in Prague have proposed him as a candidate for alternate central committee membership.

This is a clear challenge to Dubcek's leadership. How it is met will not only have a bearing on the future of the Czechoslovak liberals but probably will influence the Soviet reaction. Prchlik had offended Moscow because of his remarks about the way the Warsaw Pact was being run. In the past few days Defense Minister Dzur appeared to be defending him. Dzur may now find himself under attack from Moscow, as well as from the Prague leadership, which does not wish to offend the Soviets needlessly.

The determination of the Dubcek leadership is also being tested by recalcitrant liberal intellectuals who helped push Novotny out of office. Only 24 hours after the party presidium said it expected restraint on the part of the press, the leading Prague literary weekly, Literarni Listy, came out with an attack on Moscow's recent psychological warfare against Czechoslovak leaders.

To make matters worse, the article predicted that liberals in the USSR and Poland would eventually respond to democratization in Czechoslovakia, even though the Czechs would not promote it. This is almost certain to raise hackles in Moscow and Warsaw and, if repeated on any scale in Czechoslovakia, could lead to new problems for the Dubcek regime in relations with its erstwhile allies.

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